

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EA/P:STAFF:PP
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R 010142Z FEB 75
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO ALL EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TRSY WASHDC
AMCONSUL BIEN HOA
AMCONSUL CAN THO
AMCONSUL DANANG
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMCONSUL NHA TRANG
USDEL JEC PARIS
INFO USSAGE NKP
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI
COGARD
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST BY POUCH
XMT AMEMBASSY SUVA
AMEMBASSY RANGOON

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COGARD FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, XC, US
SUBJECT: JANUARY 31 EA PRESS SUMMARY

1. INDOCHINA

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PRES' REQUEST FOR MORE INDOCHINA AID DRAWS INCREASINGLY
PARTISAN FIRE AS DEMS DENY FATE OF SVN AND CAMBODIA LIES
IN CONGRESS' HANDS. IN RESPONSE TO STATEMENTS FROM VP
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AND SCOTT (PA.) BACKING REQUEST, KENNEDY ACCUSES ADMIN
OF USING "THREATS AND SCARE TACTICS" TO GET SUPPORT.
LEGISLATIVE LEADERS DOUBT IF HEAVILY DEM CONGRESS WILL
APPROVE FUNDS. BYRD (WVA) DENIES REJECTION OF AID

WOULD PIN RESPONSIBILITY ON CONGRESS IF INDOCHINA GOVTS
FELL TO COMMUNISTS (AP, SUN).

NYT'S FINNEY NOTES "UPHILL" DRIVE TO INCREASE WAR AID
OPENED IN CONGRESS WITH CLAIM NVN IS MOVING EXTRA COMBAT
DIVS INTO SVN. DOS AND DOD SUGGEST NVN MIGHT BE GETTING
INTO POSITION FOR MAJOR OFFENSIVE THAT SVN WOULD BE UNABLE
TO COUNTER WITHOUT EXTRA MIL AID. UNTIL NOW, ADMIN
APPRAISAL WAS THAT HANOI NOT PREPARED FOR LARGE-SCALE
OFFENSIVE, BASED ON FACT NVN HAD NOT COMMITTED ANY
STRATEGIC RESERVE DIVS. QUOTES LTGEN GRAHAM IN "UNUSAL
PUBLIC BRIEFING" THURSDAY BEFORE HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS
SUBCMTE THAT NVA DIV BEGAN MOVING OUT OF LAOS INTO SVN

TEN DAYS AGO, AND THAT THERE IS "TENTATIVE" INFO TWO
OTHER DIVS MOVING FROM NVN INTO SVN. EA'S HABIB TOLD
REPORTER AFTER HEARING THAT NVA MOVEMENT BEING WATCHED
WITH "SOME CONCERN," BUT THAT ITS SIGNIFICANCE UNCLEAR.
AMONG POSSIBLE EXPLANATIONS OFFERED BY HABIB AND GRAHAM
WERE THAT MOVEMENT IS FEINT, OR DIVS WOULD BE USED TO
REINFORCE NVA UNITS IN SVN, OR NVN PREPARING FOR GENERAL
OFFENSIVE.

FINNEY COMMENTS THAT WHATEVER NVN INTENTIONS, MOVEMENT
COULD BECOME IMPORTANT ELEMENT IN ADMIN'S ARGUMENT
THAT RELUCTANT CONGRESS PROVIDE EXTRA MIL AID TO SVN.
NOTES DOS AND DOD RESTED CASE FOR MORE AID ON NEED TO
PREPARE SVN FOR MAJOR ATTACK, AND AT NO POINT IN HEARING
DID THEY CONTEND SVN WOULD HAVE INSUFFICIENT AMMO OR
SUPPLIES TO DEAL WITH CURRENT, OR EVEN INTENSIFIED COMBAT
LEVEL. DEPASST SECDEF TESTIFIED THAT CONTINUED CONSERVA-
TION WILL FURTHER ERODE CAPABILITY AND WILLINGNESS OF
SOUTH VIETS AND THAT ENSUING LOSS OF TERRITORY WOULD
ENCOURAGE ALL-OUT OFFENSIVE AT TIME WHEN SVN STOCKS
WOULD BE INSUFFICIENT. TO BOLSTER CASE, HE PRESENTED
AERIAL PHOTOS OF NVN POSITIONS "OBVIOUSLY TAKEN" BY
US PLANES OVER SVN, AND INTERCEPTED COSVN RESOLUTION
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THAHE SAID WAS "POSITIVE EVIDENCE" NVA INTENDS STEP
UP OFFENSIVE OPERATIONS IN COMING MONTHS. FINNEY SAYS
THAT FROM QUESTIONING, IT WAS OBVIOUS SUBCOMMITTEE WAS
TROUBLED AND DIVIDED OVER ADMIN REQUEST. QUOTES HABIB
THAT FAILURE TO PROVIDE ARMS WOULD NOT BREACH "ANY LEGAL
OR WRITTEN" AGREEMENT, BUT THAT US HAS MORAL OBLIGATION
TO PROVIDE SVN WITH MEANS TO DEFEND SELF.

CORDDRY (SUN) QUOTES US INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES THAT TWO
NVA DIVS MAY BE READYING FOR MOVE INTO SVN. SAYS INFO
COMES AT TIME WHEN ASSESSMENT HAS BEEN THAT HANOI WOULD
NOT UNDERTAKE FULL-SCALE OFFENSIVE THIS YEAR. NOTES
MOVEMENT COULD UPSET EARLIER CALCULATIONS OR LEVELS OF

FIGHTING, AND MIGHT TEST SVN FORCES AND US RESPONSES. NEW INDICATIONS, BEING CLOSELY WATCHED FOR FIRMER EVIDENCE, DO NOT APPEAR TO FIGURE IN ADMIN REQUEST FOR 300 MILLION DOLS EXTRA IN MIL AID SINCE ADMIN HOLDS FUNDS ALREADY JUSTIFIED. OPINES THAT MOVEMENT WOULD ADD FURTHER DIMENSION TO TESTIMONY HEARD BY MAHON SUBCOMMITTEE. BELIEVES IF TWO NEW NVA DIVS MOVE INTO NORTHERN PROVINCES, IT COULD SHOW INTENTION TO PIN DOWN SVN FORCES IN AREA AND PREVENT REINFORCEMENT AGAINST ATTACKS ELSEWHERE.

THIEU TOLD REPORTERS AT THURSDAY BREAKFAST INTERVIEW THAT CUTS IN US MIL AID HAVE REDUCED COMBAT EFFICIENCY OF SVN FORCES BY 60 PCT, AND THAT 300 MILLION SUPPLEMENTAL

IS ABSOLUTE MINIMUM TO SUSTAIN GVN FORCES DURING INTENSIFIED FIGHTING (AP, SUN). ALSO SAID THAT TWO YEARS AGO HAK TOLD HIM USSR AND CHINA WOULD REDUCE WAR SUPPLIES TO NVN AND ENCOURAGE IT TO ABIDE BY C-F AND REACH POLITICAL SETTLEMENT. THIEU'S SESSION WITH NEWSMEN ONE OF SEVERAL IN EFFORT TO DEVELOP SUPPORT IN US FOR EXTRA MIL AID (AP, WP).

NYT'S MARKHAM IN SAIGON QUOTES THIEU THAT SITUATION WILL BE GRAVE BUT "75 "TOO FAST" FOR GVN COLLAPSE IF ENOUGH MIL AID NOT PROVIDED. NOTES THIEU INTERVIEWS THIS WEEK STARTED WITH ORGANIZATIONS THAT HAVE TAKEN SYMPATHETIC EDITORIAL POSITIONS ON MIL AID QUESTION. ADDS THAT THIEU SAID TROOP MORALE BEGAN TO DROP AFTER UNCLASSIFIED

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CONGRESS HALVED THIS YEAR'S MIL AID REQUEST, AND "MORE CRUEL WAR" BEING FOUGHT HAS RESULTED IN MORE WOUNDED. ALSO STATED MANY VIETS BEGINNING TO THINK US, THAT "LURED" THEM INTO STRUGGLE, NOW ABANDONING THEM. EXPRESSED DISENCHANTMENT WITH FAILURE OF SUPER-POWER DIPLOMACY AND PRESSURE TO REDUCE WAR'S INTENSITY SINCE C-F. ASKED IF IT WOULD BE HELPFUL SHOULD HAK APPROACH HANOI TO RESUME POLITICAL DISCUSSIONS, THIEU REPLIED HE UNDERSTANDS HAK HAS NO INTENTIONS TO DO THIS, AND IT WOULD BE BETTER TO LET VN PARTIES SOLVE THEIR PROBLEMS, BUT THAT HE WOULD NOT OBJECT TO ANY EFFORT TO ENCOURAGE RETURN TO PEACE TABLE. MARKHAM NOTES NO SIGN OF INITIATIVES ON RE-STARTING PEACE TALKS, BEYOND SAIGON AND WASHINGTON PUBLIC STATEMENTS.

WP'S MCCOMBS IN SAIGON CLAIMS THIEU IN PAST WEEK HAS PLAYED UPON EGOS OF NEWSMEN TO WAGE CAMPAIGN IN US AS CONGRESS CONSIDERS REQUEST FOR EXTRA MIL AID. SAYS THIEU REPORTEDLY ADVISED BY AMB MARTIN IN PLANNING CAMPAIGN. RECORDS COMPLAINT OF ABC NEWS' MARIANO, WHO FLEW IN FOR "EXCLUSIVE AND FIRST" INTERVIEW, WHEN HE LEARNED THAT TIME AND WP EACH HAD EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW

TWO DAYS EARLIER. MCCOMBS NOTES FRENCH TV INTERVIEWED THIEU LAST WEEK, AND NINE CORRESPONDENTS HAD THURSDAY BREAKFAST INTERVIEW AND "AT LEAST HALF A DOZEN" LED TO BELIEVE THEY WOULD BE ALONE. BREAKFAST GROUP INCLUDED CDN'S TAMARKIN, NY,'S MARKHAM AND WSJ'S KANN; LATTER SAID HE WOULDN'T HAVE FLOWN IN FROM HK IF HE HAD KNOWN SITUATION. MCCOMBS BELIEVES, DESPITE BASHING OF JOURNALISTS' EGOS, MOST SEEMED GLAD THIEU FINALLY EMERGED FROM SECLUSION.

US AMB TO STOCKHOLM REPORTEDLY PROTESTED OUTSPOKEN SWEDISH GOVT STATEMENT CRITICIZING US POLICIES IN SVN AND CAMBODIA. MFA SAYS STRAUZ-HUPE MET WITH

FONMIN IN CONNECTION WITH SPEECH LATTER DELIVERED SAYING MORE MIL AID WOULD ONLY INCREASE HUMAN SUFFERING AND PROLONG WAR, AND CHARGING ONLY US AND GVN VIOLATING C-F. US EMBASSY DECLINED COMMENT, BUT WELL-INFORMED SOURCES SAID AMB PROTESTED SECTIONS OF ADDRESS THAT UNCLASSIFIED

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DOS BELIEVED ONE-SIDED (LONDON TIMES, NYT).

CONTROVERSIAL DOCUMENTARY "HEARTS AND MINDS" OPENS AT INVITATIONAL PREMIERE IN WASHINGTON, HOSTED BY CHURCH AND HATFIELD, AMONG OTHER LUMINARIES (BALTO N-A 1/30). WP'S ARNOLD FINDS IT SURPRISINGLY SOBER AFTER EARLIER DESCRIPTIONS ELSEWHERE AS "MIND-BLOWING" AND "SHATTERING." NOTES SUBJECT IS APPROACHED AS PIECE OF HISTORY RATHER THAN ISSUE, AND HAS QUALITY OF NEATLY-ORGANIZED SCRAPBOOK AUGMENTED BY PERSONAL RECOLLECTIONS AND APPRAISALS. SEES IT OPENING IN CAPITAL AT TIME WHEN IT COULD BECOME "TACTICAL POLITICAL WEAPON," WITH LOCAL RESPONSE PROBABLY DETERMINING HOW INTENSIVELY FILM WILL BE PROMOTED AND DISTRIBUTED IN REST OF COUNTRY. BELIEVES "R" RATING MAY SCARE OFF SOME.

NICK VON HOFFMAN (WP) SAYS LIST OF MISSING FROM "HEARTS AND MINDS" PREMIERE MAKES ANGRY READING. "GEORGETOWN DIDN'T COME," AND POLITICIANS, FAMOUS NAMES, MEDIA EXECUTIVES AND JOURNALISTS WHO BACKED WAR DIDN'T CARE TO SEE IT, NOR DID MANY KEY FIGURES ALLOW THEMSELVES APPEAR IN IT. BELIEVES SOMEONE SHOULD HAVE RUN OVER TO FOGGY BOTTOM, FETCHED HAK AND MADE HIM SEE IT. ARTICLE ENTITLED, "THEY MISSED YOU IN THE LOBBY, HENRY."

SVN COMMAND REPORTS COMMUNISTS LAUNCHED HALF-DOZEN ATTACKS AROUND SAIGON AND DA NANG, KILLING AT LEAST 15 CIVILIANS (AP WP, SUN). GVN ORDERED HOA HAO SECT TO DISBAND PRIVATE ARMY AND TURN IN DESERTERS AND DRAFT EVADERS (AP, SUN).

INSURGENT FORCES ROCKETED PP AIRPORT, DAMAGED FIGHTER-BOMBER. KHMER NAVY SENT TUGS TO TOW TWO DAMAGED FREIGHTERS FROM NEAK LUONG; SHIPS WERE CUT OFF FROM CONVOY THAT REACHED CAPITAL THURSDAY (AP WP, SUN).

LAOS' RESETTLEMENT PROGRAM GATHERED MOMENTUM AS TWO RLAF TRANSPORTS SHUTTLED TO AND FROM PLAIN OF JARS CARRYING 284 BACK TO FORMER HOMES. PROGRAM STARTED WEDS WHEN 142 REFUGEES WERE RETURNED TO PLAIN (AP, SUN).
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2. CHINA

TENG HSIAO-PING TO BE MOST PROMINENT PRC LEADER MAKING OFFICIAL TRIP WEST SINCE GPCR; DISCUSSES FRENCH VISIT WITH GOF ENVOY (WP).

NYT DISPATCH (NEW DELHI) REPORTS CONTINGENT OF 50 PRC TABLE TENNIS PLAYERS, TV CREWMEN, "NEWSMEN AND DIPLOMATS IN DISGUISE" HAS ARRIVED IN CALCUTA. GOI SEES EVENT AS FIRST CONCRETE PEKING RESPONSE TO INDIA'S FRIENDSHIP OVERTURES IN RECENT YEARS. WEST BENGAL GOVT ASKED TO DO EVERYTHING TO MAKE CHINESE WELCOME AND COMFORTABLE.

3. THAILAND

CSM'S SOUTHERLAND IN BANGKOK SEES DEMOCRATIC PARTY MAKING PROGRESS TOWARD FORMING COALITION; SOME OBSERVERS "GUESS" RESOLUTION MAY COME OVER WEEKEND. KEY FACTOR IS APPARENT WILLINGNESS OF POLITICIANS TO LET SENI "HAVE A GO AT IT/ NOTES BUREAUCRATS, MILITARY AND POLICE URGING SENI MOVE FAST, BECAUSE THEY NEED DIRECTIVES, COUNTRY NEEDS "MASTER."

NYT'S BUTTERFIELD IN BANGKOK CITES DP SPOKESMAN THAT CONSERVATIVE THAI NATION AND SOCIAL AGRARIAN PARTIES AGREE "CONDITIONALLY" TO JOIN COALITION, WITH NEGOTIATIONS CONTINUING OVER DISTRIBUTION OF CABINET POSTS. SPOKESMAN ALSO SAID GEN KRIS SIVARA HAD "DONE HIS BEST IN THE INTERESTS OF THE COUNTRY" TO SEE THAT GOVT FORMED -- WHICH INTERPRETED TO MEAN MILITARY PUT PRESSURE ON CONSERVATIVES TO LINE UP WITH DP. BOTH PARTIES FAVOR CLOSE TIES WITH US, MAINTENANCE OF US AIR BASES, AND FREE ECONOMY.

4. KOREA

OPPOSITION NDP THURSDAY ANNOUNCED BOYCOTT OF REFERENDUM, WHICH KIM YOUNG SAM BRANDED "SCENARIO TO STEP UP SUPPRESSION." ASSN OF CHRISTIANS DEFENDING DEMOCRACY AND

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FAMILIES OF IMPRISONED DISSIDENTS ALSO ISSUED SEPARATE STATEMENTS DEMANDING REFERENDUM CANCELLATION (WP SEOUL).

WP NOTES UNIFICATION CHURCH PERMITS FOLLOWERS IN "ADVANCED STAGE OF DEDICATION" TO SUBMIT NAMES OF PREFERRED MATES FOR FINAL APPROVAL OF REV SUN MYUNG MOON, WHO PLANS TO CONDUCT MASS WEDDING OF 1,600 SUCH COUPLES IN SEOUL FEB 8.

5. JAPAN

JOC'S CULLISON IN TOKYO SAYS AUTO MFRS ASSN FIGURES RELEASED THURSDAY SHOW JAPAN'S MOTOR VEHICLE EXPORTS CLIMBED 28.6 PERCENT IN 1974, TO RECORD HIGH OF 2.6 MILLION UNITS. US IMPORTS ROSE ABOUT 20 PERCENT, TO MILLION UNITS. ALMOST 50 PERCENT RISE IN EXPORTS TO AUSTRALIA LED GOA TO IMPOSE QUOTAS THIS WEEK, WHICH JAPAN PLANS TO PROTEST DURING FEB WHITLAM VISIT. EXPORTS TO ME ROSE 79 PERCENT. ALSO NOTES MOTORCYCLE EXPORTS UP 30 PERCENT, TO RECORD HIGH 3.2 MILLION UNITS.

CULLISON ALSO REPORTS SEAMEN'S UNION STUNS SHIPOWNERS WITH FRINGE DEMANDS, RAISING MONTHLY PACKAGE OF WAGES, BENEFITS 45 PERCENT. SEAMEN ALSO INSIST ON RIGHT TO STRIKE ANYTIME TO ENSURE SAFETY CONDITIONS.

6. PHILIPPINES

UPI MANILA (BALTO N-A JAN 30) SAYS JAPANESE OFFICIALS BEGIN SEARCHING MANILA BAY MUDDY BOTTOM FOR REMAINS OF 800 CREWMEMBERS WHO WENT DOWN WITH CRUISER NACHI, SUNK BY US BOMBERS IN 1944.

ALICE VILLADOLID IN MANILA (NYT SPECIAL) REPORTS PHIL SUPREME COURT HEARD PETITION THURSDAY OF 14 CITIZENS, SOMEINPRISON CHARGING MARCOS NOT IN OFFICE LEGALLY, THUS COULD NOT LEGALLY CALL REFERENDUM. GOVT SOLICITOR ARGUED NEW CHARTER, DESPITE IMPERFECTIONS, APPROVED DIRECTLY BY PEOPLE. JUDGE CLAIMED LINCOLN AND FDR EXERCISED "LEGISLATIVE POWERS" IN EMERGENCY. COURT ADJOURNED AFTER LONG HEARING TO PREPARE RULING.

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7. AUSTRALIA

REUTER (ADELAIDE) NOTES CLAIM BY AUSSIE PHYSICIST HERBERT GREEN THA RECORD RAIN, FLOODS IN AUSTRALIA PAST 18 MONTHS LINKED TO FRENCH A-TESTS. BUT GOA

METEOROLOGY DIRECTOR INSISTS METEOROLOGICAL OPINION
THROUGHOUT WORLD IS THAT NUCLEAR EXPLOSIONS HAVE NO
DETECTABLE EFFECT OTHER THAN IN IMMEDIATE VICINITY
OF TEST (WP).

WSJ (COMMODITIES) SAYS SIGNS SOVIETS, CHINA CANCELLING
WHEAT ORDERS PLACED LAST YEAR PROMPT FUTURES SELLING
IN US MARKETS. ALSO CITES TOKYO REPORT THAT IF JAPAN
RESUMES IMPORTING BEEF IN APRIL, AUSSIES WILL HEAD

LIST OF SUPPLIERS.

COMMENT AND ANALYSIS

8. INDOCHINA

GLOBE (1/30) CAN THINK AT MOMENT OF NO MORE DISASTROUS
SITUATION THAN GIVING SVN MORE MIL AID, AND HOPES
APPEAL FALLS ON DEAF EARS IN CONGRESS. SEES MASSIVE
MISREPRESENTATION IN TALK OF COMMITMENT (THAT DOESN'T
EXIST) TO PROVIDE REPLACEMENT EQUIPMENT, SINCE C-F
PROVISION MERELY SET LIMIT FOR SUCH EQUIPMENT. AS
FOR CAMBODIA, ITS TROUBLES STEM FROM "NIXON'S INVASION"
WHICH WAS "UNCONSTITUTIONAL." POINTS OUT C-F VIOLATED
BY BOTH SIDES, WITH OUR WITHDRAWAL ONLY POSITIVE ASPECT.
WOULD BE MONSTROUS TO SEND MORE MIL AID TO CONTINUE
KILLING. ON CREDIBILITY QUESTION, WE LOST THAT IN
DECADE OF UNCONSTITUTIONAL WAR. AS FOR HAK STATEMENT
THAT WE WOULD BE FORESAKING OUR "MORAL OBLIGATION,"
SAYS OUR MORAL OBLIGATION TWO YEARS AGO WAS TO GET OUT,
AND NOW IT IS TO STAY OUT. ADDS THAT DOMESTIC ECON
SITUATION FOR ONCE COINCIDES WITH MORALS OF MATTER.

PHINQ (1/30) RECOMMENDS CONGRESS TURN DOWN MORE ARMS
FOR INDOCHINA IF IT IS "WISE, AND ESPECIALLY HUMANE."
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ALSO ADVISES CARE BE TAKEN TO PROHIBIT CIRCUMVENTION
BY DOD "WILY BOOKEEPERS." QUOTES PRES AND SECSTATE
ON ARMS NEEDS OF VN AND CAMBODIA, CALLS THEM WRONG ON
FIVE COUNTS: CONTENTION THAT 300 MILLION MORE NEEDED
TO SALVAGE AND STABILIZE SVN REGIME FLIES IN FACE OF
FACT PREVIOUS ENORMOUS EXPENDITURES OF US MONEY AND
LIVES DIDN'T ACCOMPLISH THAT END; ARMS WOULD GO TO
BOLSTERING CORRUPT, DESPOTIC, ANTI-DEMOCRATIC REGIME
INTERESTED IN ITS OWN SURVIVAL IN POWER; C-F VIOLATIONS
NOT LIMITED, AS PRES CLAIMS, TO NVN AND VC; CREDIBILITY
AT STAKE IS WHETHER WORLD IS TO BELIEVE US COMMITTED
TO SUPPORTING UNDEMOCRATIC AUTOCRACIES; AND CONTRARY
TO HAK ASSERTION THAT ISSUE IS NOT WHETHER US SHOULD BE
IN VN, WE HAVE BEEN THERE FAR TOO LONG. CONTENTS DEBATE
BEFORE PUBLIC AND CONGRESS MUST BE SEEN AS CRUCIAL

REFERENDUM ON LATTER ISSUE.

MARY COSTELLO IN PHILA BULLETIN (1/27) FINDS C-F ACCORDS ARE SHAMBLES, WITH ALL FOUR PARTIES VIOLATING THEM. QUOTES MAYNARD PARKER IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS THAT C-F GAVE SIGNATORIES CERTAIN ADVANTAGES: FOR US IT BROUGHT BACK POWS AND ENDED AIR INVOLVEMENT; FOR HANOI AND VC IT REMOVED REMAINING US FORCES; AND FOR SVN IT

LEFT GVN AND THIEU IN CHARGE OF SIZABLE GOVT APPARATUS. BUT PARKER CONCLUDED AGREEMENT FAILED TO ANSWER BASIC QUESTION WHO SHOULD HOLD POLITICAL POWER, SO CAN'T BE EXPECTED LEAD TO ANYTHING BUT CONTINUATION OF WAR, WITH POSSIBLE ESCALATION.

ALSO QUOTES NEW YORKER'S SHAPLEN THAT COMMUNIST RESTRAINT COULD DEPEND UPON WHAT HAPPENS IF PEACE TALKS RESUME: IF HANOI CAN BUY TIME TO WORK ON OWN PLENTIFUL INTERNAL PROBLEMS BY GETTING PRG LEGALIZED AND THUS PREPARE WAY FOR COALITION, IT WILL PROBABLY DO SO; IF TALKS DON'T START, ANOTHER FULL-SCALE ATTACK WILL IN ALL LIKELIHOOD BE CHOSEN. COSTELLO SEES US WITH SEVERAL OPTIONS: WORK WITH OPPOSITION TO REPLACE THIEU; SEEK AGREEMENT WITH RUSSIA AND CHINA TO REDUCE MIL AID TO BOTH SIDES; OR ENCOURAGE THIEU OR SUCCESSOR TO ESTABLISH NATL UNCLASSIFIED

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COUNCIL OF UNITY AND CONCORD PROMISED IN C-F. CONGRESS WILL BE TEMPTED TO MAKE SUBSTANTIAL CUTS IN FUTURE ADMIN REQUESTS FOR MORE MIL AID TO SVN.

ALLAN GOODMAN (CSM 1/29) IS DEPRESSED ABOUT SVN FUTURE. SEES BOUNDARY WITH COMMUNISM SHIFTING FROM 17TH PARALLEL TO ENTIRE WESTERN BORDER AND STRIPS FROM THAT FRONTIER TO COAST IN QUANG TIN AND PHUOC LONG-BINH TUY AREAS. QUOTES ONE S VIETNAMESE THAT "END IS AT HAND." NOTES "ACCOMMODATION" IS WORD MOST COMMONLY USED BY RELIGIOUS AND POLITICAL LEADERS FOR WHAT THEY REGARD AS ONLY STRATEGY LEFT FOR DEALING WITH COMMUNISTS, AND IT NOW MEANS ADAPTATION. RC PRIEST BELIEVES "WE CAN LEARN TO LIVE" WITH COMMUNISTS IF THEY TAKE OVER AND THERE IS NO OTHER PLACE TO GO. GOODMAN REMARKS THAT SIMILAR COMMENTS BEGINNING TO BE VOICED BY GROUPS AND PERSONALITIES LONG NOTED FOR ANTI-COMMUNISM. SEES BEHIND THIS HOPE THAT COMPLEXITY OF SOUTH WILL RESULT IN LESS THAN COMPLETE COMMUNIST TAKEOVER. BELIEVES LOSS OF PHUOC LONG SYMBOLIZED TURN FOR WORST, SINCE VIET PUBLIC THINKS IT LOST FOR GOOD. MANY GVN OFFICIALS BELIEVE MORE TERRITORY WILL BE LOST AND FIGHTING WILL CONTINUE AT CURRENT LEVEL UNTIL AT LEAST END OF 1975.

GOODMAN POINTS OUT THAT DESPITE OMINOUS DEVELOPMENTS, US COMMITMENT IS BEING LIQUIDATED; DOD ECONOMIST STATES THAT EVEN IF SAIGON RECEIVED AID PROGRAMMED OVER NEXT TWO YEARS, WHEN FIGURE IS ADJUSTED FOR INFLATION, DECLINE IS "STARTLING." ALL THIS LENDS CREDIBILITY TO GRADUAL COLLAPSE OF GOVT AND ARMY THA, CRITICS HAVE LONG PREDICTED. BUT COMMUNISTS STILL

APPEAR TO COUNT ON GROWING OPPOSITION AND DEBILITATING EFFECT OF CORRUPTION TO DELIVER FINAL BLOW. GOODMAN SEES MORE TRAGEDY AHEAD FOR VIETS, SINCE US MAY ABANDON THEM AFTER HAVING CREATED ANTI-COMMUNIST GOVT. NOTES MANY AMERICANS FEEL MORAL REPUGNANCE TO VN INSTEAD OF MORAL COMMITMENT HAK REFERS TO. PREDICTS THAT REACTION WILL PALE WHEN AMERICANS REALIZE US HAVING FAILED TO WIN WAR IN 60S, HAS FAILED IN EFFORTS TO HELP UNCLASSIFIED

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VIETS FIND PEACE IN 70S. CONCLUDE SOUTH VIETS STILL DO NOT REGARD COMMUNIST TAKEOVER AS PEACE THEY HOPED TO ACHIEVE, BUT ARE QUICKLY BECOMING PEOPLE WITHOUT HOPE.

SCRIPPS-HOWARD'S LINDSAY (S-N 1/29) SEES STAGE SET FOR CONGRESSIONAL DEBATE, BUT OVER WHO TO BLAME WHEN SVN FALLS RATHER THAN WHETHER TO SUPPORT THAT NATION ANY LONGER. BELIEVES THIS IS POINT IMPLIED BY PRES' WARNING, IN REQUEST FOR 522 MILLION DOL SUPPLEMENTAL, THAT ALLIES MAY FALL WITHOUT ADDED US SUPPORT. NOTES SAME POINT MADE LESS AMBIGUOUSLY IN SEN TOWER'S STATEMENT THAT US RENEGES ON C-F AGREEMENT WHICH PERMITS ONE-FOR-ONE REPLACEMENT OF SVN MATERIAL, AND THAT "MAJORITY IN CONGRESS IS READY TO LET SOUTH VIETNAM GO DOWN THE DRAIN." LINDSAY CHARACTERIZES MOOD OF CONGRESS BY CITING SEN MANSFIELD THAT ULTIMATE COST OF INVOLVEMENT TO NATION WILL BE 362 BILLION DOLS, IN ADDITION TO 55,000 LIVES, AND QUOTING HIS JUDGEMENT THAT US INVOLVEMENT "TRAGIC MISTAKE."

KNIGHT NEWS SERVICE'S MCCARTNEY (PHINQ, GLOBE) ASSERTS NOBODY EXPECTS CONGRESS WILL APPROVE PRES' REQUEST FOR SUPPLEMENTAL FOR SVN AND CAMBODIA -- "NOT EVEN FORD." ISSUE IS NOT, AS WH CLAIMS, WHETHER SVN "WILL GO DOWN THE DRAIN," BUT WHO TAKES POLITICAL BLAME IF IT DOES. WITH AID REQUEST, PRES IS MAKING POINT IT WOULD NOT BE HIS FAULT IF DEM CONGRESS WON'T GIVE HIM MONEY. SEES THIS AS REPLAY OF SAME OLD ISSUE OF WAR THAT PLAGUED THINKING OF EVERY PRES SINCE EISENHOWER -- NONE WANTED BLOT ON RECORD OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR LETTING SVN FALL TO COMMUNISM.

OBSERVES FORD AND HAK PREPARING SAFE POSITION FOR ADMIN IN DRAMATIZING REQUEST FOR FUNDS; IF SAIGON FALLS, DEMS CAN BE BLAMED, IF IT DOESN'T ADMIN CAN CLAIM CREDIT.

SUGGESTS THAT TO DRAMATIZE POLITICAL ISSUE, WH DELIBERATELY EXAGGERATES THREAT, ONLY TWO WEEKS AFTER SECDEF SAID

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NVN NOT LIKELY TO LAUNCH MASSIVE, NATION-WIDE OFFENSIVE THIS YEAR. SAYS FORD IS "LAST OF THE BIG TIME OPTIMISTS ON VIETNAM" IF HE BELIEVES ARGUMENT OF AMB MARTIN AND HAK THAT SVN COULD SOMEHOW GET OVER HUMP MILITARILY AND ECONOMICALLY, IF CONGRESS PUTS UP MONEY. OBSERVES CONGRESS IS, TO SAY THE LEAST, SKEPTICAL; BUT DEMS MUST WORRY WHERE FINGER OF BLAME WILL POINT IF SAIGON DOES FALL (JAN 30).

9. CHINA

S-N'S BRADSHER, IN HK, SAYS APPOINTMENT OF TENG AND CHANG TO KEY PLA POSITIONS SEEMS BALANCING ACT BETWEEN MODERATE AND RADICAL POLITICAL FACTIONS, BUT COULD TURN OUT ANOTHER VICTORY FOR CHOU. SAYS IF ENG MAKES TRIP THIS YEAR TO FRANCE AND AFRICA AND CONTINUES ACTING AS CHOU'S MAIN DEPUTY FOR MEETING NONMILITARY FOREIGN VISITORS TO PEKING, HIS APPOINTMENT AS PLA CHIEF OF STAFF CAN BEEN SEEN MORE AS POLITICAL MOVE TO CONSOLIDATE MODERATE INFLUENCE THAN FUNCTIONAL POSTING.

BRADSHER FEELS UNCERTAIN FACTOR IS CHANG; SOME LEFTISTS SEEM UNWILLING TO GIVE CHOU FULL ENDORSEMENT, BUT BACK CHANG. NOTES SOME OBSERVERS SEE CHANG AS FLEXIBLE OPPORTUNIST WHO GOT AHEAD DURING GPCR BY JUMPING ON THAT BANDWAGON BUT MIGHT BE PREPARED TO WORK WITH CHOU'S FACTION, THAT RIGHT NOW SEEMS WINNING SIDE. BRADSHER SAYS RECENT CENTRAL COMMITTEE AND PARLIAMENTARY SESSIONS SHOWED CHOU EMERGED WITH HIS INFLUENCE DOMINANT IN CHINA, WHILE MAO HAS GONE INTO ECLIPSE, POSSIBLY SULKING IN FRUSTRATION IN CHANGSHA. HOWEVER, STRUGGLE NEVER ENDS IN CHINA, WITH BASIC ISSUES OF CONTROL LIKELY TO RECUR.

NYT HAS CHANG CHUN-CHIAO PROFILE. SAYS MORE COLORFUL TENG HSIAO-PING TENDS TO ECLIPSE QUIET CHANG, YET SEEMS CLEAR CHANG IS DESTINED TO PLAY VERY IMPORTANT ROLE. IRONIC THAT TENG, MOST PROMINENT OF REHABILITATED OFFICIALS, SHOULD NOW BE JOINED BY CHANG, ONE OF MOST VOCIFEROUS OF CULTURAL REVOLUTION'S "RADICALS."

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COPLEY'S DE TOLEDANO RAISES OBJECTONS TO PROJECTED
FORD PRC TRIP. INSISTS SINO-US RELATIONS ARE ONE-WAY
STREET, BENEFITING US NOT AT ALL; PEKING'S SOLE INTEREST
IS TERMINATION OF US-ROC RELATIONS AND ABROGATION OF
MUTUAL DEFENSE PACT "THAT GIVES US THE ONLY RELIABLE
AND IMPORTANT BASE OF OPERATIONS" IN ASIA. ARGUES
THAT PRC LACKS POWER CORE, WITH MAO "IN HIS DOTAGE"

AND CHOU AILING, SO NO ONE WITH WHOM PRES CAN NEGOTIATE
WHO CAN SPEAK WITH LASTING AUTHORITY OR COMMITMENT.
CONTENDS IF PEKING HAS SOMETHING TO TELL US, LET THEM SEND
MAO'S WIFE WITH MESSAGE. MEANWHILE, LET'S NOT JEOPARDIZE
ROC -- PROBABLY MOST STABLE GOVT IN ASIA (SAN DIEGO
UNION JAN 24). KISSINGER

NOTE BY OC/T: POUCHED BUDAPEST.

UNCLASSIFIED

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 26 AUG 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: EA PRESS SUMMARY
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 FEB 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE023562
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: EA/P:STAFF:PP
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Film Number: D750038-0053
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750287/baaaagpl.tel
Line Count: 562
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 11
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14 APR 2003 by MarshK0>; APPROVED <20 JAN 2004 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: n/a
TAGS: PFOR, XC, US
To: ALL EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS
MOSCOW
TRSY
BIEN HOA
CAN THO
DANANG

HONG KONG
NHA TRANG
JEC PARIS INFO USSAGE NKP
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI
COGARD
BUDAPEST BY POUCH
XMT SUVA
RANGOON

Type: TE

Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006